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Mexico

FAIRS Product Specific

Mexico Amends Animal Health Law to Eliminate Meat Safety Inspection Facilities in U.S.

2000

Approved by:

Franklin D. Lee

U.S. Embassy Mexico

Prepared by:

Dulce Flores

Report Highlights:

This report summarizes amendments to Mexico's Federal Law for Animal Health which Mexico published on June 12, 2000, and their likely impact on U.S. exporters. The primary impact is that all meat safety inspections done in facilities now located in the United States must be moved to Mexico. The U.S. facilities can keep working for the next 12 months if they comply with the requirements discussed within this report.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico [MX1], MX

Introduction: This report summarizes the amendments to Mexico's Federal Law of Animal Health the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Development (SAGAR) published in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) on June 12, 2000.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

FAS/Mexico's Executive Summary: The main issue contained in these amendments is that all verification and inspection points will have to be located in Mexico unless they can meet the rather stringent requirements listed below, in which case they will be allowed to operate for another twelve months. However, after that period all inspections of imported meat and poultry currently done by SAGAR personnel on U.S. soil will have to be done in Mexico. The requirements to continuing operating during the twelve month grace period are as follows:

- space for maneuvering at least 40 trucks
- flooring with gravel asphalt or equivalent.
- bay for at least 8 trucks, meaning 8 doors for simultaneous reception
- refrigerated bay with refrigerated transference aisles at temperature of 4 degrees Celsius.
- minimum refrigeration storage capacity of 250 cubic meters
- minimum storage capacity of 300 cubic meters

According to private sector sources only few facilities currently operating on the U.S. side meet the above listed requirements. So far, there is no infrastructure built in Mexico to perform these inspections and it is uncertain whether SAGAR has the budget to build the facilities. Although no product has been detained as of this date, meetings are being held with Mexican authorities to find out more about this issue.

Title: Amendments to the Federal Law of Animal Health

Type of Regulation: Final

Important Dates

1. Publication Date: June 12, 2000

2. Effective Date: June 13, 2000

Products Affected: All Meat products

Agency in Charge: Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development

Additional Information:

The law amended several of the definitions and added new ones. The significant differences lies with the changing of the verification and inspection points to Mexico. The law gives no alternative but to do the inspection for imported meats in Mexican territory, even though there are presently no facilities in Mexico.

On December 3, 1999 SAGAR published a proposed regulation (PROY-NOM-058 ZOO-1999) which established the specifications for installation and operation of animal health verification points. The U.S. sent comments on this rule that still envisioned verification points in foreign territory. Mexico, however, has not published any comments yet. (See report MX9168)

For More Information:

Fax: 011-52-5-208-2115

Email: AgMexico@fas.usda.gov

Internet Connections

FAS Mexico Web Site: We are available at <http://www.atomexico.gob.mx> or visit our headquarter's home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS' worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGAR) can be found at www.sagar.gob.mx and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (SECOFI) can be found at www.secofi.gob.mx These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.